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MEXICAN

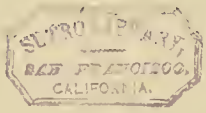
PICTURE-CHRONICLE

OF

CEMPOALLAN

and other States of the Empire of

ACULHUACAN



Written on 16 leaves (31 pp.)
of paper manufactured from the maguey-fibre;
about 1530

BERNARD QUARITCH
LONDON; 15 PICCADILLY
1890

180 Quaritch
Quaritch
S.F.

125 QUARITCH'S FACSIMILES: part IV. Mexican Pictorial Chronicle, 31 leaves, reproduced from the original, in colours, written on maguey paper soon after the date of the Spanish conquest, sells £3. 3*s* 1890

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

CONCERNING the origin and history of the manuscript which is here reproduced, before it came into the possession of the well-known Americanist Brasseur de Bourbourg (in whose "Bibliothèque Mexico-Guatémalienne" it is described on p. 95), we know positively nothing. From the matter which it contains, the character of the writing, and the nature of the material on which the pictures are drawn, we can, however, form a fairly safe conjecture, that our "Picture-Chronicle" was written towards 1530 for the prince Yxtlilxochitl of Tezcuco, called by some writers "Yxtlilxochitl II", or "Don Fernando Cortes Yxtlilxochitl, last king of Acolhuacan." His collection of painted and written records passed into the possession of his great-grandson Don Fernando de Alva Yxtlilxochitl, the historian, whose Relaciones have been printed by Kingsborough. At the death of the latter, they were acquired by the celebrated Jesuit writer Don Carlos Siguenza, whose library of Mexican MSS. was probably superior to any other that has been formed since. Siguenza died in 1700, leaving his MSS. to the Jesuit College of SS. Peter and Paul in Mexico; before 1750 many had been alienated or lost; and after the Revolution most of them disappeared. We suspect that our Mexican Picture-Chronicle belonged successively to the two Yxtlilxochitls, and to Siguenza, before it came into the hands of Brasseur, of Pinart, and of the present owner.

The popular idea with regard to Mexican Antiquities and the Aztec monarchy is, that Cortes with a few hundred Spaniards landed on the coast, marched inland, and conquered an immense homogeneous empire by means of his guns and his horses. It is known to all the world that the difficulties were enormous, and that Cortes revealed the highest qualities of genius in overcoming them; but few people take into account the extraordinary chances which were thrown in the conqueror's way. Without the aid of the Tlaxcalans in his first campaign, which after all ended in frustration; and without Yxtlilxochitl's unrivalled support in the second campaign, Cortes would assuredly have perished in his enterprise.—During a couple of centuries the great cities of Tezcuco, Azcaputzalco, and Mexico occupied different points on the great lake of Analiuac, and though not far apart from one another, each was the capital of a kingdom containing many large cities besides. Beyond

those three, there were other minor states, all of which have been usually looked upon as part of the Empire of Mexico. There was no fixed supremacy at any of the centres; but the most powerful, or influential, or respected, monarch was chosen to hold imperial rank above his royal fellows. The system resembled somewhat that of the Emperor and the Electors in mediæval Europe; but the shifting of the imperial capital from one city to another in turn was a fruitful source of jealousy and war. The monarchy of Aculhuacan, in which Tezcuco was the chief city, was the most highly civilized of all the states, and its rulers were the direct descendants of the ancient Chichimeca dynasty which had ruled throughout all the lands around the lake. By them the Aztec immigrants were allowed to settle in the vale of Anahuac, and to found at the beginning of the fourteenth century the city afterwards called Mexico. Twenty or thirty years later, the Mexicans chose Acamapitzin for their first king. At the same time the Chichimeca Emperor, resident in Aculhuacan, was Techotlalatzin, whose power as supreme overlord was acknowledged by all the princes around. The Mexicans lent him considerable aid in suppressing a rebellion of one of his feudatories, and heightened by that very action the importance of their little kingdom. The marriage of the second king of Mexico with a daughter of the king of Azcaputzalco was an event which led to many changes.

The Azcaputzalcan or Tepanec king took advantage of the death of the paramount Chichimeca in 1406 to invade the territories of young Ixtlilxochitl (I). Although the imperial dignity was accorded without hesitation to the latter by all the electors or feudatories except the Azcaputzalcan Tezozomoc, he was driven into sore straits, and perished miserably for want of loyal support. For twenty years, Tezozomoc and his son Maxtla exercised tyrannic rule from Azcaputzalco over the chief places of the Aculhuan dominion, while the Mexican kingdom grew apace, and enlarged itself by annexing outer provinces of the realm. The young heir Nezahualcoyotl wandered as an outlaw for years before he recovered his kingdom in 1426. During a glorious reign of over forty years, he restored the prosperity and influence of Aculhuacan; but although Tezcuco became once more a centre of art and culture, and the king himself achieved distinction of a high order as a soldier, a lawgiver, and a poet (—his songs being the most precious remains of Nahuatl literature)—Mexico retained the power it had won during his father's adversity. Ixtlilxochitl had married the sister of Montezuma I, who was consequently the uncle of Nezahualcoyotl. The two kingdoms were thus brought into close relations and an equality of rank established, in which the third monarchy of the empire was also associated by the marriage of Nezahualcoyotl with the daughter of the Tepanec king, whose metropolis was now Tlacupan. Besides these three kingdoms, with their capitals close together in the vale of Anahuac, there were other kingdoms on the west and north which were gradually annexed by Mexico; and the state of

Tlaxcala, a warlike oligarchy lying east of Tezcuco, which the Mexicans sought vainly to subdue, and which long afterwards allied itself with Cortes through hatred of the Aztec emperor. In spite of frequent dissensions, those states grew in wealth, population, and architectural grandeur. It is believed that Tezcuco contained 300,000 inhabitants, Mexico even more, and the city of Tlaxcala, although the centre of a small dominion, is said to have been enormously populous. When Nezahualpilli succeeded his father Nezahualcoyotl in 1470, Tezcuco was at its highest level in civilization and splendour, although the political power of Aculhuacan was on the wane, and the star of Mexico in the ascendant. Montezuma I had been followed by Axacayatl, during whose reign, and that of his two successors, the Aztec empire was continually enlarged; but as Nezahualpilli was brother-in-law to all three of them, his wise and learned character enabled him to exercise a moral influence which may have consoled him for the gradual supersession of the old primacy of Aculhuacan. He was a kind of Solomon, regarded as the wisest of counsellors, distinguished as an astrologer and soothsayer, and endowed with all the learning of his time and country. Montezuma II, who was his nephew through marriage, ascended the Aztec throne in 1502, and frequently sought advice from Nezahualpilli, who is said to have predicted, in 1511, the impending ruin of the empire by a foreign invasion. In 1516 the wise King died in Tezcuco, leaving jealousies among his sons, and the germs of a civil war, which soon broke out when Cacamatzin was placed on the throne by the help of his cousin Montezuma. The fiery prince Ixtlilxochitl (II) made war upon his brother, and the result of the struggle was the division of Aculhuacan between them, Tezcuco and the south falling to the titular sovereign Cacamatzin. The animosity of Ixtlilxochitl against his brother was less strong than his hatred for the Mexican Emperor, who had preferred his brother to himself, and he probably heard without regret of the audacious entry of the Spaniards and Tlaxcalans into Mexico in 1519. The fatal consequences of his resentment were visible in 1520 when Cortes, in making his second advance upon Mexico (after the death of Montezuma and the evacuation of the capital by the Spaniards) was joined by Ixtlilxochitl with fifty thousand men. It is hardly questionable that without the powerful aid of that prince the reconquest of Mexico and the downfall of Guatimozin would not have been achieved; and Cortes showed his gratitude by proclaiming him King in Tezcuco in 1521. It was a poor reward, for although Ixtlilxochitl retained the rank and title for eight years, he lost the respect of his kinsmen, and the Spaniards gradually withdrew from him all but the semblance of royalty. He had been baptized as Don Fernando Cortes Pimentel, and he forced Christianity upon all the members of his family, helping the foreigners to destroy the old temples and idols of the land. He patronized and cherished the educational efforts of the three Franciscan monks who settled in Tezcuco in 1523, beginning at once to learn and to teach. Early in 1524, Pēter of Ghent was instructing a number of the aristocratic youth of Tezcuco to write their

own language in Roman characters, although interfering little with the old superstitions of the people. Later in the same year Martin of Valencia and a number of other Franciscans arrived, and the process of education was so well advanced that a large proportion of the younger generation in Tezcuco was able to read and write Nahuatl in Roman letters before Zumarraga ordered the destruction of all the old MSS. and paintings that he could collect. Thus it is known that, even after that act of barbarism, many of the hieroglyphic records of the days before the conquest were reproduced in a more readable form by youthful writers who took their texts orally from the lips of the unforgetting elders of their nation.

The MS. now reproduced is evidently one of those to which we have referred, and its pictures are clearly indicative of a Tezcucan origin. The figures, which betray the suggestions of European teaching in design, are all those of personages of the Chichimecan dynasty, or of their relatives or descendants, and the object of the writer was to celebrate the lineage of Ixtlilxochitl II. We may assume that the prince was still alive when the work was done. He married the Mexican princess Papantzin in 1526 and died in 1529. It was probably in the interval that some of his picture-records were renewed in the same fashion as this MS., and that his library thus won the eulogy bestowed upon it by his great grandson the historian who inherited many of them. The connexion with Cempoallan is not easy to understand. That "traitor-town," as a modern Mexican calls it, was a well-built city near the coast, not far from the site of the present Vera Cruz, and was the first place in the empire to give adhesion to Cortes. It was the capital of the Totonecas who had originally been subject to the Chichimeca-Emperors of Aculhuacan, but acknowledged allegiance to Mexico and not Tezcuco at the time of the conquest. Ixtlilxochitl may have wished to claim an ancient right in Cempoallan.

N.B.—*Although the subject of the first illustration is, on the plate itself, asserted to be the Emperor Ixtlilxochitl I, it seems rather to be (as described in the following List of Contents) a representation of Ixtlilxochitl II, while ruling in the northern half of Aculhuacan, after the arrangement with his brother.*

Contents of Part IV.

MEXICAN PICTURE CHRONICLE.

		Order of issue in the complete series of Quaritch's Illustrations.
1.	**Yxtlilxochitl**, prince of North Aculhuacan, (afterwards King of Tezcuco), with the mountains of Tzinquliocan . . .	139
2.	**Tecpanacacaltzin the Great** (King of the Toltecs, 10th century), and his son Xilotzin (founder of the Aculhua monarchy) . .	140
3.	**Tenancacaltzin**, son of the Emperor Nopaltzin, and Prince of Tenayucan, with his device of a number of heads representing his slaughter of Aztecs (13th century)	141
4.	**Yxtlilxochitl I**, the Emperor, marries Matlalcihuatzin, daughter of the King of Mexico, and takes her to Tezcuco (about A.D. 1367) . .	142
5.	**The Temple of Cempoallan**, a city and province subject to the monarch of Tezcuco	143
6.	**Town and Streets of Cempoallan**	144
7.	**The town of Tlamapan**	145
8.	**Cihuatiltzin**, Queen of Cohuatlichan, maternal grandmother of Yxtlilxochitl I (with her husband, King Acolmiztli ?), about A.D. 1300	146
9.	**The Emperor Yxtlilxochitl I** (and his Queen ?), about A.D. 1370	147
10.	**Tributaries of the Tezcucan monarchy**: Xanatotzin . .	148
11.	,, ,, ,, : Metepec . .	149
12.	,, ,, ,, : Metepec, continued .	150
13.	,, ,, ,, : Totlaçotatzin .	151
14.	,, ,, ,, : Tepotztlan . .	152
15.	,, ,, ,, : Fort and garrison of Totlaçotatzin	153
16.	**Yxtlilxochitl II as a boy**, with his Nurse. Tribute from Coatitlan .	154
17.	**Yxtlilcuechahuac** (King of the Toltecs, 7th century), and his wife .	155
18.	**The Emperor Tlaltecatzin** (paternal grandfather of Yxtlilxochitl I) his wife	156
19.	**Yxtlilxochitl II with a lady.** Tribute of Poyauhtla . .	157
20.	**Tributaries of the Tezcucan monarchy**: Temaliatzinco .	158
21.	,, ,, ,, : Tacalala . .	159
22.	,, ,, ,, : Xalantla . .	160
23.	,, ,, ,, : Coxtin . .	161
24.	,, ,, ,, : Cotzaqualan .	162
25.	,, ,, ,, : Tepemaxalco .	163
26.	,, ,, ,, : Maxca . .	164
27.	,, ,, ,, : Tepechichilco .	165
28.	,, ,, ,, : Teuhtla-xumulco .	166
29.	,, ,, ,, : Totlaçotatzin .	167
30.	,, ,, ,, : Tochintla . .	168
31.	,, ,, ,, : Tecaxtitlan . .	169

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 139. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

1. *The Emperor Ixtlilxochitl, King of the Acolhuas, with the mountains of Tzinquiocan, which were the North-west boundary of his states* (14*th century*).

Quarter's Illustrations. No. 140. Griggs fecit 1899

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Tempallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper: about 1530.

2. *Tecpancaltzin the Great, King of the Toltecs (10th century) and his son Nahuatzin, founder of the Dynasty of the Acolhuas.*

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 141. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

3. *Tenancacaltzin, son of the Emperor Nopaltzin, and great-grand-uncle of Ixtlilxochitl; noted for his slaughter of the Aztecs and his tyrannous rule at Tenayucan* (13*th century*).

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 142. Griggs fecit 1890.

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

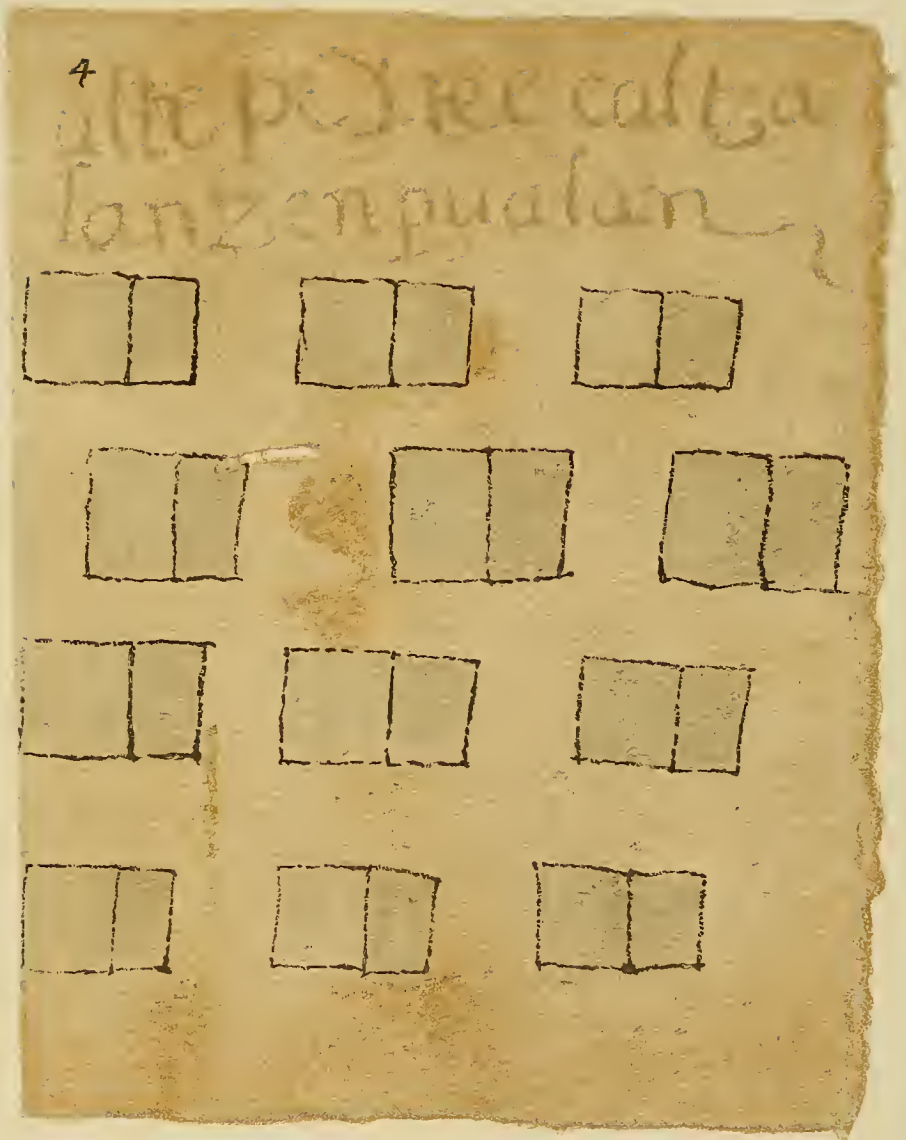
4. *The Emperor Ixtlilxochitl, King of the Aculhuas, marries Matlalcihuatzin daughter of the King of Mexico, and takes her to Tezcuco (A.D.* 1367).

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 143. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

5. *The Temple of Cempoallan, a city and province subject to the Aculhuan crown (not far from the present Vera Cruz).*



Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 144. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

6. *Town of Cempoallan (or Zenpualan).*

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 145. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

7. *Towns of Cempoallan paying tribute to Tezcuco: Tlamapan.*

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 146. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

8. *Cihuatiltzin, Queen of Cohuatlichan, grandmother of Ixtlilxochitl (with her husband, King Acolmiztli) about A.D.* 1300.

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 147. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of [illegible], on forty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1550.

9. *The Emperor Ixtl[illegible] (and his wife.) about A.D. 1370.*

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Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 148. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

10. *Towns of Cempoallan, tributary to the Tezcucan monarchy: Xanatotzin.*

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 749. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

11. *Towns tributary to the Tezcucan monarchy: Metepec.*

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 150. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

12. *Towns tributary to the Tezcuan monarchy: Metepec (continued).*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

13. *Towns tributary to the Tezcucan monarchy: Totlaçotatzin.*

Quaritch's Illustrations, No 152 *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

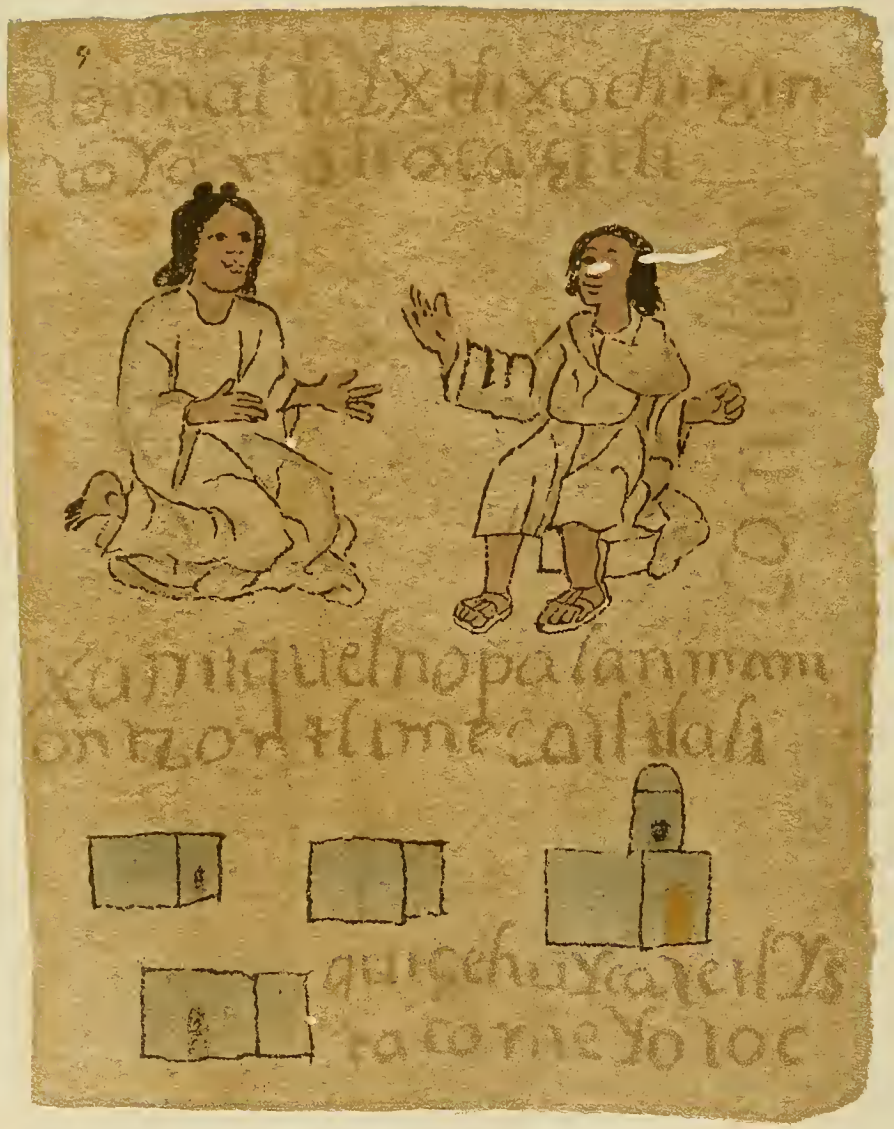
14. *Towns tributary to the Tezcucan monarchy: Tepotztlan.*

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 153. Griggs fecit 1890.

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Compoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

15. *Towns tributary to the Tezcucan monarchy: Fort of Tlaxotatzin.*



Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 154. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

16. *Ixtlilxochitl as a boy with his teacher. Tribute of Coatitlan.*

Quaritch's Illustrations, No 155. Griggs fecit 1890.

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1580.

17. *Ixtlilcuechahuac, King of the Toltecs, 8th century (with his wife?) from whom the princes of Tezcuco claimed descent.*

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 156. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

18. *The Emperor Tlaltecatzin (grandfather of Ixtlilxochitl) and Tlahuatzin. Tribute of Tecocomulco.*

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 157 *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

19. *Ixtlilxochitl and a Lady (Cihuapilli). Tribute from Poyauhtla.*

Quarterly Illustrations, No. 150. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

20. *Towns tributary to Tezcuco: Tamaliatzinco.*

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 159. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

21. *Towns tributary to Tezcuco: Tacalala.*

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 160. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Tempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

22. *Towns tributary to Tezcuco: Xalantla.*

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 161. Griggs fecit 1890.

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

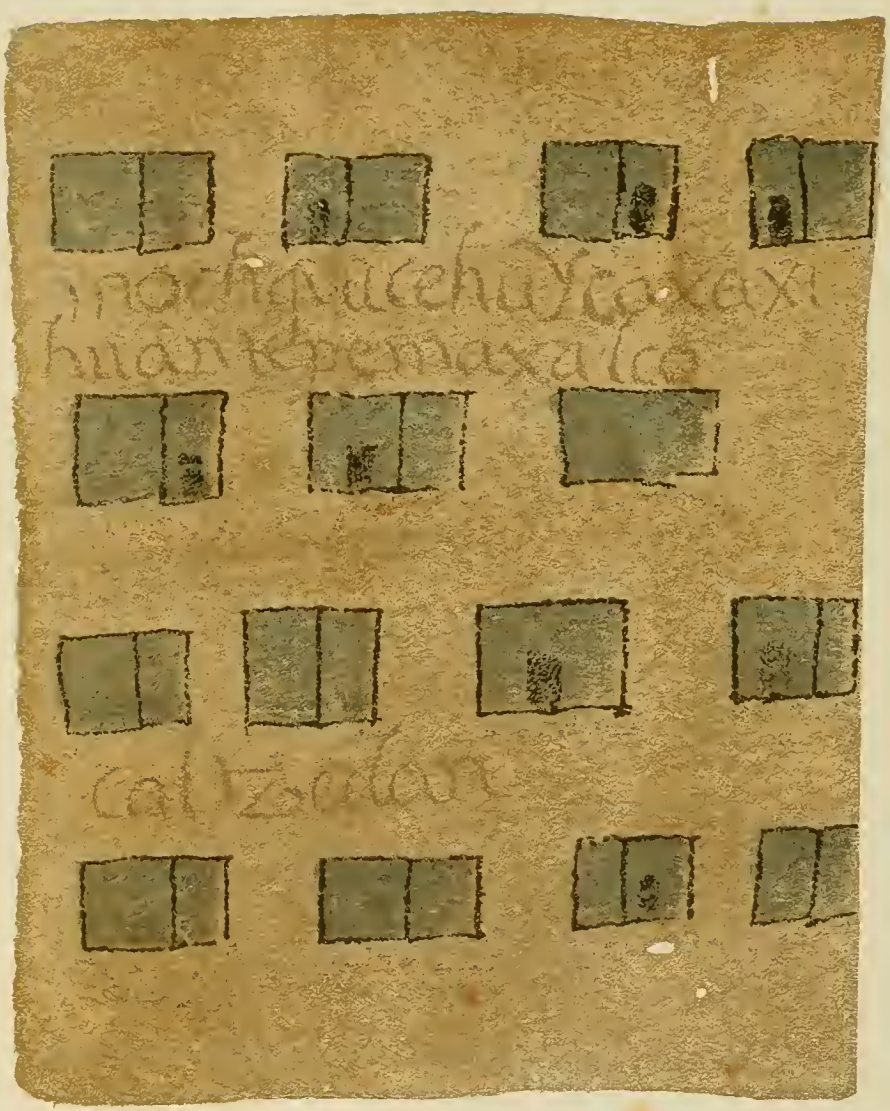
23. *Towns tributary to Tezcuco: Coatlan.*

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 162. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty one pages of maguey-paper, circa 1550.

24. *Towns tributary to Tezcuco: Cotzaqualco.*



Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 163

BOOK-ILLUMINATIO · FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Tempoallan *... history-cartography of maguey-p...* 1890

25. *Town-tribute ... Tepeaxaxalco*

Quaritch's Illustrations, No. 164. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper, about 1530.

26. *Towns tributary to Tezcuco. Mexico.*

Quaritch's Illustrations, p. 105. *Griggs fecit 1890.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

27. *Towns tributary to Tezcuco: Tepechichilco.*

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper, about 1530

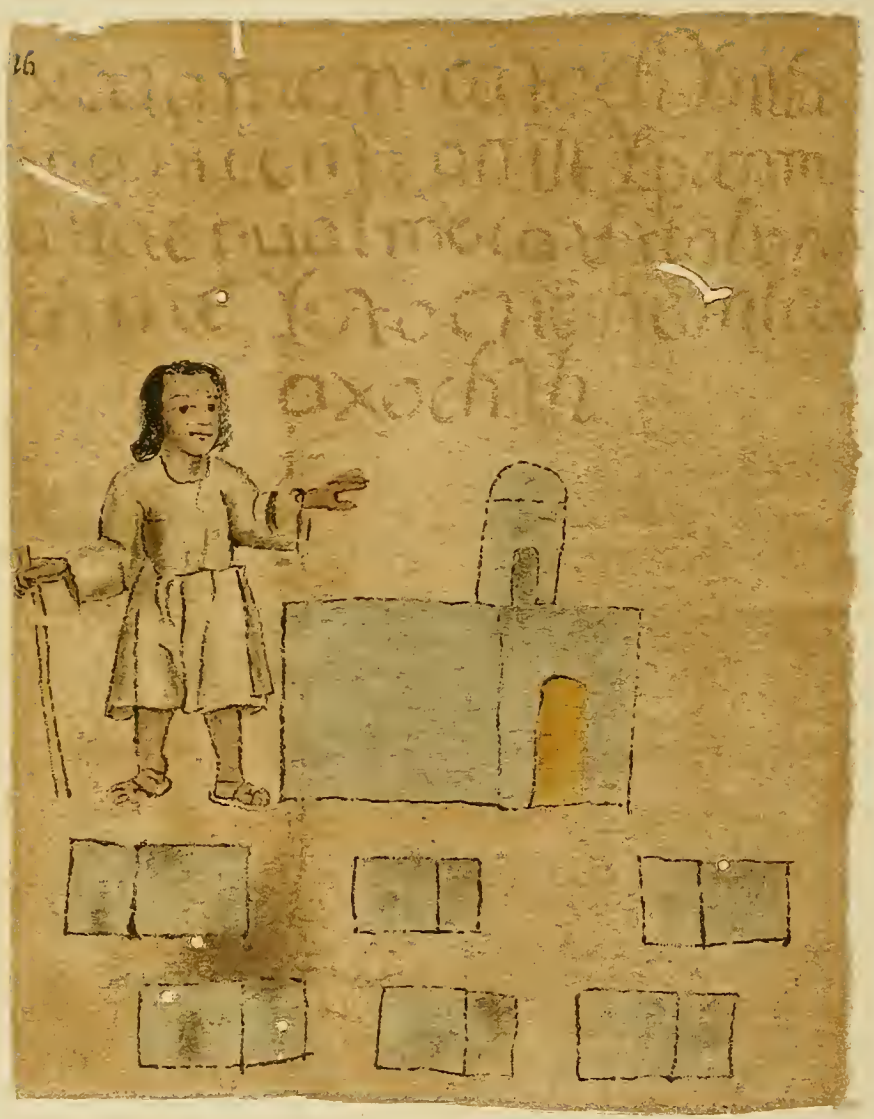
28 *Towns tributary to Tezcuco: Teuhtla-xumulco.*

aritch's Illustrations, No. 167

BOOK-ILLUMIN[illegible] FACSIMILED FROM M[illegible]

Mexican Pict[illegible]nicle of [illegible]mpoallan, or thirty-[illegible]

20. Tow[illegible]y to Tezcuc[illegible]



Quaritch's Illustrations No. 168. [illegible] fecit 1890.

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530

30. *Town tributary to Tezcuco: Tuchintla*

Quaritch's Illustrations. No 169. Griggs fecit 1890.

BOOK-ILLUMINATION: FACSIMILES FROM MSS.

Mexican Picture-Chronicle of Cempoallan, on thirty-one pages of maguey-paper; about 1530.

31. *Towns tributary to Tezcuco: Tecaxtitlan.*

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